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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/806,580	07/02/2001	Hansjoerg Reimann	028622/0106	1453

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EXAMINER

HILL, MYRON G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1648

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/806,580

Applicant(s)

REIMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Myron G. Hill

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38- 66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 54, 57, 58, and 61- 63 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38- 53, 55, 56, 59, 60, and 64- 66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in Paper No. 12 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the special technical feature is also in claims 59-60 and 64-66. This is found persuasive in part. The parts of claims 59-60 and 64-66 that read on the elected product will be rejoined and examined in this action.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 54 and 61-63 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

This action is on claims 38-53, 55, 56, 59, 60, and 64-66.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 38-53, 55, 56, 59, 60, and 64-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear what the

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metes and bounds of "unstable" are as used in the claims and it is not clear what the metes and bounds of "in a cell" is. It is not clear what the metes and bounds of "co-precipitates" is or if this interaction is with first or second polypeptide or the chaperone. It is not clear from the specification page 6, top part, what is required.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 38- 53, 55, 56, 59, 60, and 64- 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claims are drawn to a peptide that is not stable in a cell which in turn is part of a fusion protein that of "co-precipitates" with a chaperone.

The specification (page 8, lines 7- 11) define unstable as "therefore, are only difficult to express per se or which can not be expressed at all."

The specification does not define a standard to which expression is difficult or does not occur. Is the protein unstable if one of skill in the art is not able to express the protein after one or two or three attempts? If another of skill in the art expresses it after two tries is it still unstable?

One of skill in the art does not know how much (or how little) experimentation is required to meet the limitation of the claims as defined in the specification. Thus the

specification does not describe in such a way to allow one of skill in the art to know what proteins are encompassed by the claims.

Claims 38- 53, 55, 56, 59, 60, and 64- 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claims are drawn to unstable proteins that stable when expressed as a fusion with a modified T antigen that precipitates with a HSP73.

The specification presents examples (at least Examples 2 and 8) that disclose fusion constructs and immunization with HBV LS and preS comprising polynucleotides.

Cheng (see entire document) teach nucleic acids that lead to the expression of the same HBV proteins and an immunological response as well as detection and vaccines. It is not clear how the claimed invention produces products that are different from those of Cheng.

It is also not clear how the examples show stabilization of proteins of proteins as used in the examples have been expressed before.

Thus, it is concluded that the specification does not disclose nucleotides that encode fusion proteins that comprise an unstable peptide and a T antigen as recited in the claims that are useful as antigens or vaccines.


Conclusion

No claim is allowed.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Myron G. Hill whose telephone number is 703-308-4521. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel can be reached on 703-308-4247. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 for regular communications and 703-308-4242 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



Myron G. Hill
Patent Examiner
July 27, 2003



JAMES HOUSEL 7/28/03
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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